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THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND OTHER RELATED FIELDS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rajab SUKAYRI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" was included in the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 49/68 of 15 December 1994.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 October 1995, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 78, 80 and 81. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 11th meetings, from 16 to 20 and on 25 and 26 October 1995. Structured discussions of specific subjects within the adopted thematic approach were held from 30 October to 3 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on the items took place at the 13th to 17th meetings, from 6 to 9 November. Action on the draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 29th meetings, on 10, 13 to 17, 20 and 21 November.

4. There were no documents submitted under item 63 to be considered by the Committee.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/50/L.13

5. At the 15th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" (A/C.1/50/L.13), which was later also sponsored by Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Honduras, Kazakstan, New Zealand, Nicaragua and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

6. On 10 November, Cuba, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar and Pakistan submitted amendments (A/C.1/50/L.53) to draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.13 by which:

(a) The second preambular paragraph, which read:

"Recognizing the importance of continued multilateral dialogue on means of promoting the transfer of technology for peaceful purposes while ensuring that such technology is not diverted to non-peaceful purposes"

would be replaced by:

"Recognizing the importance of continued multilateral dialogue on internationally agreed means of ensuring transfer of technology for peaceful purposes while avoiding diversion of such technology to non-peaceful purposes";

(b) Operative paragraph 1 (b), which read:

"(b) Exploring ways and means of further developing international legal rules on transfer of high technology with military applications"

would be replaced by:

"(b) Exploring ways and means of developing multilaterally negotiated, universally accepted and non-discriminatory agreements on transfers of high technology with military applications".

7. At the 24th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the sponsors, informed the Committee that they would not press for a vote on the amendments contained in document A/C.1/50/L.53.

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada, on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.13, announced the deletion of the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.13, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 148 to none, with 9 abstentions (see para. 10). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Pakistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications

and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

1. Invites Member States to enhance bilateral and multilateral dialogue on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, with a view to:

(a) Ensuring implementation of relevant commitments already undertaken under international legal instruments;

(b) Exploring ways and means of further developing international legal rules on transfers of high technology with military applications;

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields".